

***Orthocarpus bracteosus* Benth.**

rosy owl-clover

Scrophulariaceae (Figwort Family)

**Status:** State Endangered

**Rank:** G3?S1

**General Description:** An erect annual with limited branching, 4-16 inches tall, minutely hairy with the upper part of plant somewhat sticky-glandular; lower leaves are long-lanceolate, the upper leaves are 3 to 5 lobed, with the lobes spreading; bracts are purplish, broad, with 3 to 5 narrow spreading lobes; spike is compact; flowers are showy, rose-pink and exceed the bracts; upper lip of corolla is slender and slightly hooked at the apex; lower lip is sac-shaped; anthers are hairy.

**Identification Tips:** The rose-pink color of the flowers is unique among Pacific Northwest species of *Orthocarpus*.

**Phenology:** Flowers from June through August.

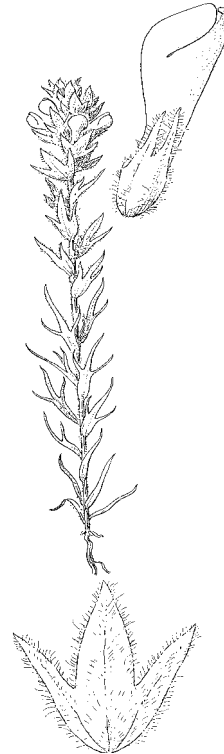
**Range:** Vancouver Island, B.C. to Oregon, mostly west of the Cascades, southward to east of the Cascades to Plumas County, CA. In WA, it is currently known from one meadow complex in Klickitat County (Eastern Cascades physiographic province). There are also historical records from San Juan and Whatcom counties, WA (Puget Trough physiographic province).

**Habitat:** The extant sites in WA are all associated with moist meadow conditions in the transition zone between wetland and upland. These sites are graminoid and forb dominated with little to no shrub or tree cover. Adjacent forested areas are dominated by a mixture of ponderosa pine and Douglas fir. Two other rare plant species occur in the immediate vicinity: long-bearded sego lily (*Calochortus longebarbatus* var. *longebarbatus*) and Oregon coyote-thistle (*Eryngium petiolatum*).

**Ecology:** Specific factors regarding the ecology of this species are unknown. Presumably the hydrologic regime is significant, given the species' restriction to the transition zone around wetland perimeters. All locations also receive full sunlight. Fire may have played a limited role historically in the maintenance of suitable habitat. The species can also tolerate some grazing pressure.

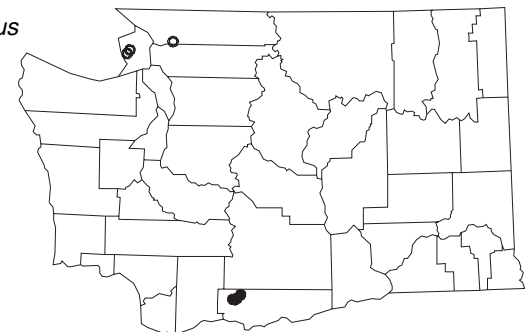
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Known distribution of  
*Orthocarpus bracteosus*  
in Washington



● Current (1980+)  
○ Historic (older than 1980)

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John Gamon



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**State Status Comments:** The species is restricted to one large meadow complex; a majority of the known plants are located within a county road right-of-way. Historically known sites in San Juan and Whatcom counties have not been relocated.

**Inventory Needs:** This species has not been the target of intensive inventory efforts. Therefore, its range and distribution in WA is somewhat poorly known. Appropriate habitats in the San Juans and Puget lowlands, as well as along the eastern edge of the Cascades, should be inventoried. Historically known locations should be systematically revisited and inventoried.

**Threats and Management Concerns:** The hydrologic regime of the meadow complex within which the species occurs has been manipulated for a long time. Any additional manipulations would be of potential concern. Grazing is also of potential concern. Maintenance of the county road, including weed control, needs to be undertaken in a manner compatible with the species.

### **References:**

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Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, and J.W. Thompson. 1959. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest, Part 4: Ericaceae through Campanulaceae*. University of Washington Press, Seattle. 510 pp.

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